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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

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SHERIFFS PERSONNEL TRAINED IN NARCAN MAKE FIRST SAVE

Within 48-hours of receiving specialized training to treat drug overdoses, a Columbia County Deputy Sheriff used that training to save the life of a county resident.

Columbia County Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that his office was dispatched last week by Columbia County 911 to a report of a 63 year old male who had possibly overdosed on pain medications. Deputy Sheriff Cindy Madison responded to the call for help and arrived on the scene to find the patient unresponsive and barely breathing. Deputy Madison immediately administered a medication known as Narcan to the patient, causing him to start breathing again. Shortly after Deputy Madison administered the Narcan, paramedics and fire department responders arrived with the patient, and providing additional care and transport.

The new Narcan program is a project the Columbia County Sheriff's Office has implemented in conjunction with Columbia County EMS Coordinator PJ Keeler, Dr. Michael Dailey of Albany Medical Center, and the New York State Sheriff's Association to treat drug overdoses. Narcan is a medication that can reverse the effects of certain drugs – like Morphine, Hydrocodone, Vicodin, and heroin – known as opioids. When administered, Narcan works to block the effects of the opioids on the brain and restores breathing.

Dr. Dailey, who developed the program, said "I am proud to acknowledge the success of Sheriff Bartlett's program. Thanks to the quick thinking and well trained Deputy, a patient who suffered an overdose of opioids will have a second chance at life." County EMS Coordinator PJ Keeler echoed those sentiments, comparing the new program to the county's AED/defibrillator program. "Several years ago we worked with the police agencies to put defibrillators in the patrol cars. This is building on that tiered medical response procedure," Keeler said.

The majority of the staff at the Sheriff's Office has completed the required training to administer Narcan – the first law enforcement agency in Columbia County to do so.

Sheriff Bartlett credits the interagency cooperation between Albany Medical Center and local EMS providers. "I thank Dr. Dailey and PJ Keeler for their help and support with this project. It's a team effort," Bartlett said. He added that his goal is to have every police officer in Columbia County trained on the use of Narcan. "If that is done by putting departments in touch with our contacts in Albany Med, or by my instructors going out and training other agencies, that's what we'll do," the Sheriff said. "Saving a life is special. I am extremely proud of Deputy Madison and grateful that she was able to make a difference in this person's life," Bartlett added.